Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3656

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0903

EXDIS

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PINT ET US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR: BRIEFING OF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR

REF: ADDIS ABABA 12602

- 1. DURING COURSE OF CALL ON MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, BG GETACHEW NADEW, ON OTHER MATTERS, I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF REPEATING TO HIM BRIEFING CONTAINED REFTEL. I READ HIM TEXT, AS HAD POL COUNSELOR IN ADDIS WHEN HE BRIEFED MOFA OFFICER.
- 2. GETACHEW SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND, ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED SURPRISED AND UNENTHUSIASTIC AT FIRST ABOUT FACT THAT WE HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH ELF REPS, BY THE TIME I HAD COMPLETED THE READING HE SEEMED NOT ONLY RESIGNED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT BUT UNDERSTANDING OF OUR EFFORTS. I TOLD HIM IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT BOWIDOWICZ AND STRICKLAND BEING HELD BY ELF WHILE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL HELD BY PLF. GETACHEW TOOK NOTE OF THIS, AND I TOLD HIM I WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION WE HAD WITH REPS OF EITHER INSURGENT CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP. IN THIS CONNECTION GETACHEW HIMSELF USED THE TERMS

ELF AND PLF INSTEAD OF THE CUSTOMARY TERM "BANDITS."

3. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT, FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION, GETACHEW LAUNCHED INTO A DENUNCIATION OF THE BRITISH, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS HOSTILE TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT. IT TURNED OUT THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO RECENT BBC BROADCASTS QUOTING BRITISH CORRESPONDENT'S REPORTS OF VISITS TO INSURGENT-HELD AREAS IN THE DESERTS OF NORTHERN AND WESTERN ERITREA. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED AT YESTERDAY MORNING'S BBC BROADCAST WHICH ACCOMPANIED A REPORT OF THE ABDUCTION OF THE BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL WITH A TRAVELING REPORTER'S ACCOUNT OF THE PROGRESS OF THE INSURGENCY. IN THE PAST GETACHEW HAS DEMONSTRATED HIMSELF TO BE VERY HOSTILE TO THE ITALIANS, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT HE ALSO HARBORS RESENTMENT AGAINST THE BRITISH.

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Message Attributes

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